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○ ISSUE 27 | ○ VOLUME 6

# Community *notes*

## Preparing for Winter Weather

As of noon on January 21, 2016 Howard County is under a Blizzard Warning from the National Weather Service from Friday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. until Sunday, January 24 at 6:00 a.m. In addition to heavy snow, sustained high winds with frequent wind gusts are expected. Please [monitor weather conditions](#). Governor Hogan has declared a state of emergency beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, January 22.

All Howard County Public School System facilities will be **closed** for **Friday, January 22** through **Sunday, January 24, 2016**. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Report power outages right away. Contact BGE at 1.877.778.2222 to report electrical outages or downed or sparking wires. Call BGE at 1.800.685.0123 to report a gas emergency.

If you are served by Pepco, call 1-877-737-2662 to report outages and downed wires. You can request a callback so we can verify if individual or small groups of outages still exist. You may also use their website to [report outages](#).

Prevent your pipes from freezing with these [tips](#) from Howard County's Bureau of Utilities. Ensure that your mobile devices and any portable chargers are fully charged.

Don't forget the pets. Winter weather can be especially dangerous for our animal friends. The [ASPCA](#) has helpful ideas for our pets' care during cold weather.

## Greeting

This week, we lead off with tips to help you get ready to respond to whatever weather old man winter throws our way. As we prepare for this weekend's weather, let's take it easy on the roads and be kind to each other. Be safe!

*Smaykey*

## Continued...

If big snowfall totals are predicted and you are shoveling by hand, you may want to tackle accumulating snows in intervals. That will make the end job much easier.

Within 48 hours of the ending of a snowfall, remember that all property owners are required to remove snow and ice from sidewalks and walkways. (Howard County Code §18.402.h).

If you have not already, equip each of your vehicles with an emergency kit that contains such items as extra clothes, blankets, water, nonperishable food, a flashlight, ice scraper and a snow shovel. Consider adding washer fluid that will help de-ice your windshield. For more information about what items to include in your vehicle's emergency kit, visit [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) to download the mobile app or click on the DHS [website](#) for steps to prepare for winter weather. Please remove snow and ice from your vehicle before driving it.

For emergencies, residents are asked to call 9-1-1. For questions regarding snow removal, closings, et cetera, please monitor local television and radio, the [Howard County Government](#) website and the County's social media accounts ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).

## Watershed Grant Applications Being Accepted

Howard County's Department of Public Works, Bureau of Environmental Services is now accepting applications for their 2016 Watershed Enhancement Grant (WEG). The WEG is geared towards promoting grass roots education projects and outreach activities intended to: increase community awareness and participation in water quality issues and projects; provide educational opportunities for Howard County residents; and implement restoration projects.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization located in Howard County and doing work within the County. An applicant's project and/or activity must educate county residents or community groups on the effect they have on the water quality in Howard County's lakes, rivers and streams, and how they can help improve the overall quality. An applicant's grant proposal must include measurable objectives and evaluation criteria stating how resident and community behavior will be changed through their project. The amount of grant money awarded to each organization will be based on the extent of their project/activity and the availability of funds.

Applications are available [online](#) and must be submitted both via email to [amorales@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:amorales@howardcountymd.gov) and mailed to: Angela Morales, Howard County Watershed Enhancement Grant Program, Bureau of Environmental Services, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 514, Columbia, MD 21046.

**Deadline to apply is Friday, February 26.**

Examples of eligible WEG program activities include: environmental cleanups; removal of invasive plant species; riparian tree plantings; stream restorations; rain garden installations; and educational seminars. Projects must be completed within one year of acceptance into the grant program. For questions or more information about WEG, contact the Bureau of Environmental Services at 410-313-6444 or visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/swm.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/swm.htm).

## Hiring Event for CA Camps

Columbia Association's (CA) Camps Department will host an open hire event on Saturday, January 30 from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at CA Headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court (located off Stevens Forest Road near the county vehicle emissions inspection station).

Open positions include camp directors, camp counselors, camp supervisors, lifeguards, canoe specialists, archery specialists and more. Applicants must be at least 16 years old by June 20, 2016.



For more information, please call 410-715-3165 or email [Camps@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:Camps@ColumbiaAssociation.org).

## Celebrate Restaurant Weeks

Howard County restaurants welcome friends old and new to eat, drink and be merry during the 2016 winter restaurant weeks, now through February 1. You can visit a tried and true favorite or take an adventure; either way, you should expect to enjoy great local cuisine. Click [here](#) to check out all the details on the website. Bon appetit!



## CandleKids Presents New Musical

Candlelight Concert Society (CCS) continues its CandleKids Series with a new musical based on the best-selling children's series by Barbara Park. Theatreworks USA will perform **Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School** on Sunday, January 31 at 2 and 4 p.m. in the Horowitz Center's Smith Theatre in Columbia, MD. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation will be provided at the 4 p.m. performance for the hearing impaired.

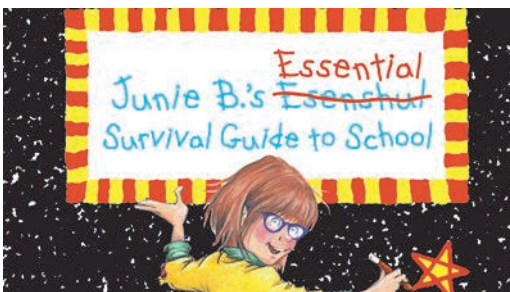
Now that Junie B. Jones has been going to school for over one-and-a-half years, who better to write the book on everything you need to know? From bus rules to band-aids, carpools to cookies, Junie B. and friends deliver the definitive word on surviving and thriving in style. With a jillion tips, tricks, and trip-ups, Junie B. shares her hard-won expertise and shows us all how school is sometimes scary, sometimes super-fun, and always something to sing about!

CCS's CandleKids Series provides a stimulating introduction to the performing arts for families with children ages 4-10. Performances have included classical ensembles, opera, jazz, dance, percussion and puppetry. These engaging, 50 minute performances are followed by a Q&A with the performers.

Awarding-winning Theatreworks USA is America's largest and most prolific professional not-for-profit theatre for young and family audiences. Since 1961, Theatreworks USA has enlightened, entertained, and instructed over 72 million people in 49 states and Canada, now performing for about four million people annually. Every year, the company tours approximately 16 shows from its ever-growing repertoire of 115 plays and musicals. Theatreworks USA actors have gone on to originate roles in such Broadway shows as *Avenue Q*, *Hairspray*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Rent*, *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, and others.

Tickets are \$11 in advance and \$12 the day of the performance. Groups of 15 or more are \$9/ticket.

For tickets, more information, or to download the performance study guide, visit [www.candlelightconcerts.org](http://www.candlelightconcerts.org). To purchase tickets by phone or to reserve handicapped accessible or ASL seating, please call 410-997-2324.



The Columbia Festival of the Arts presents its Winter Festival, **BEYOND THE BLUES**, each weekend February 4 – 21! They're offering selections that include **MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL ON TOUR**, the music of Trane, Miles & Mingus with Vince di Mura and James Brandon Lewis, August Wilson's play **GEM OF THE OCEAN**, two Sundance Award Winning Films, short plays from New Theatre Movement **BLACK LIVES, BLACK WORDS**, an Art Gallery Reception and Blues Concert with Samuel James, plus insightful lectures, play readings, and more. Tickets can be purchased [online](#).

**Saturday, February 6, 2016 ■ 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**SAMUEL JAMES | Art Opening and Blues Concert**

Gallery exhibition private showing, followed by Blues Concert.  
Columbia Art Center

*"Wildly individualistic...a powerhouse of intensity...Samuel James is a man that packs ferocity in his virtuosity in what is unabashedly deep roots, old time."* – *TheCountryBlues.com*

Samuel James is in a class by himself. With a voice of grit and gravel, roots musician Samuel James sings with an authenticity lost in time. A modern guitar master, James' skill has a depth and range that seems impossible for a man with only two hands. Among the most creative guitar players performing today, this blues-based singer/songwriter has dazzled audiences around the world for the better part of a decade. Tickets: \$15



**Saturday, February 13, 2016 ■ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**AN AFTERNOON OF JAZZ | Music of Trane, Miles & Mingus**

Monteabaro Recital Hall, Howard Community College

*"People who know Vince di Mura's playing know to expect something special."* – *keyboard.com*



Veteran jazz pianist, composer, arranger and musical director Vince di Mura performs with saxophonist/composer James Brandon Lewis. Vince di Mura is a veteran Jazz pianist, composer, arranger and musical director who has appeared on concert stages and theatres throughout North

America, Canada, Europe and Latin America. Saxophonist/composer James Brandon Lewis has earned a reputation in the gospel, R&B, and jazz worlds. Tickets: \$15

**Saturday, February 20, 2016 ■ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**FILM: FRUITVALE STATION | Sundance Audience and Grand Jury Prize Winner**

Monteabaro Recital Hall, Howard Community College

*"Best Independent Film" 2013 African-American Film Critics Association*



*"Top-10 Films of the 2013" American Film Institute*

*"Outstanding Independent Motion Picture" 2013 NAACP Image Awards*

"Fruitvale Station" is the true story of 22-year-old Oscar Grant, who wakes up on the morning of December 31, 2008 and gets a

head start on his resolutions. He strives to be a better son to his mother, whose birthday falls on New Year's Eve, a better partner to his girlfriend, and a better father to their beautiful 4 year old daughter. The day ends with events on the Fruitvale Station train platform that shook the San Francisco Bay Area to its core. Tickets: \$10

**Saturday, February 20, 2016 ■ 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**BLACK LIVES, BLACK WORDS | Six Short Plays From a New Theatre Movement**

Monteabaro Recital Hall, Howard Community College

*"Empowering, diverse, unapologetic, forceful, dramatic, poignant, highly entertaining and thought provoking."* – *NewWritersBlog, London*

Short works by up-and-coming black playwrights from Chicago and London, exploring the black diaspora of experiences in some of the largest multicultural cities in the world.

This project gives voice to contemporary black writers from the US and the UK, asking them to explore the question "Do black lives matter today?"

These plays not only discuss these important issues but also seek to provide solutions to the many problems that our community is struggling with. Tickets: \$15



**Sunday, February 21, 2016 ■ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**COLUMBIA VOICES | Staged Reading Of Act One**

by Gwydion Suilebhan, Directed by Todd Olson

Oliver's Carriage House – Kittamaqundi Community Church

*"Every great community has an origin story, and behind every story there are people. Our community has an origin story, too, and the Columbia Voices Project will bring that story to life."* – *Gwydion Suilebhan*



In 2014 The Columbia Festival of the Arts awarded a commission to playwright Gwydion Suilebhan for the creation of a new play inspired by Columbia's founding in 1967. With an eye on Columbia's 50th Birthday in 2017 (which is also The Festival's 30th Anniversary), we are again showcasing this work-in-progress with a staged reading of select scenes. Tickets: \$10

**Saturday, February 6, 2016 ■ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**PARTNER EVENT | HoCoPoLitSo presents Poetry and Percussion**

With Poet Steven Leyva - Kittleman Room of Duncan Hall

Howard Community College

Visit the [HoCoPoLitSo website](#) for more information or for tickets to this specific event.





## Spending Affordability Committee

The public is welcome to attend meetings of the Spending Affordability Advisory Committee (SAAC) as it prepares recommendations regarding revenues and expenditures for County government over the next five years.

The SAAC is charged with reviewing in detail the status and projections of revenues and expenditures for the coming fiscal year 2017 and for fiscal years 2018-2021 as well. The SAAC will evaluate the impact of economic indicators such as changes in personal income and the growth of the assessable base. The Committee is directed to prepare and present a report by March 1, 2016.

The SAAC meetings are scheduled:

Thursday, January 21, 2016

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Thursday, February 25, 2016 (back-up date in the event of inclement weather)

All meetings are held in the Columbia/Ellicott Room at the George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive in Ellicott City starting at 7:30 a.m. Videos from the meetings are available [online](#).

## In Honor of the Struggle for Freedom

The Columbia Orchestra presents **Daybreak of Freedom** on Saturday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jim Rouse Theatre.

The works performed for this concert were inspired by themes of freedom and liberty and include Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*, Rossini's Overture to *The Barber of Seville* and Schwanter's *New Morning for the World*. The beauty and intensity of Schwanter's music are matched only by the stirring and ever-relevant words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, read by Pastor Michael Edwards.



Tickets: \$10-25 depending on seat location (\$3 service fee may apply). Click [here](#) or call 410-465-8777 (M-F from 9:30-3:30) to purchase tickets. Arrive by 6:30 p.m. for a free pre-concert lecture.

## Notice of Public Meeting and Comment Period

Proposed New Relocation Project for Clarksville Post Office

USPS representative will discuss plans for the relocation of the Clarksville Post Office at a public meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Claret Hall (6020 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville 21029).

USPS Real Estate Specialist Richard Hancock will present plans to reestablish at a new location retail service. The relocation project will consist of procuring a suitable substitute location, as close as reasonably possible to the previous location. Retail Services will continue at Columbia Post Office and Ellicott City Post Office for our Clarksville customers until such time as all necessary preparations are completed at the new location.

There will be no changes to mail delivery or customers' addresses. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Written comments on the proposal will be accepted until March 1, 2016, and may be submitted to:

Richard Hancock, Real Estate Specialist

United States Postal Service

Facilities Service Office

PO Box 27497

Greensboro, NC 27498-1103

[richard.a.hancock2@usps.gov](mailto:richard.a.hancock2@usps.gov)

## Reminder: Weekend Events

In previous editions of the newsletter, we have shared events scheduled to take place this weekend, such as [Jazz @ the Lake](#), [Children on Board Preschool Fair](#) and the [pARTners in Art Exhibit Reception at the Howard County Arts Center](#). Given the weather forecast and the state of emergency, please monitor local television and radio stations, websites, and social media (e.g., Twitter and Facebook, etc.) for announcements regarding these events.



Mary Kay Sigaty

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Howard County on Twitter: @HoCoGov

Howard County Facebook: [facebook.com/hocogov](https://www.facebook.com/hocogov)

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